

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO USDOC WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BRAZILIA

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

SECSTATE WASHDC 4098

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, CO

SUBJECT: REPORT ON U.S. TEXTILE MACHINERY TRADE MISSION

1. SUMMARY: MISSION COMPLETED TWO AND ONE HALF FULL DAYS OF BUSINESS ACTIVITIES MEETING WITH LEADING OWNERS, EXECUTIVES AND PURCHASING AGENTS OF NATIONAL TEXTILE INDUSTRY. MAJORITY OF MISSION MEMBERS FAMILIAR WITH VENEZUELAN TEXTILE INDUSTRY BUT AGREED CUMULATIVE EFFECT OF MISSION MOST HELPFUL TO AMERICAN INDUSTRY. ESTABLISHED OUR STRONG INTEREST IN INCREASING SHARE OF MARKET AND EFFORT APPRECIATED BY CUSTOMERS. STRONG LOCAL AGENT REPRESENTED SIX OF OUR COMPANIES AND WAS MOST HELPFUL IN SECURING APPOINTMENTS. DURING MISSION VISIT HE ACQUIRED SEVENTH REPRESENTATION FROM PIEDMONT ENGINEERS.

2. HIGHLIGHT OF FIRST DAY WAS SUPERB RECEPTION ATTENDED BY AMBASSADOR AND WELL OVER 200 GUESTS, WHICH GREATLY EXCEEDED OUR INITIAL ESTIMATE AND IS A RECORD FOR ANY MISSION EVEN IN PAST TWO YEARS. MEMBERS REPORTED ON HIGH QUALITY UNCLASSIFIED

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OF GUESTS. AN ABOVE AVERAGE AMOUNT OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED,

EVEN ONE SALE CONSUMMATED BY COLTRON INDUSTRIES.

3. DIRECTOR AND CONTROL OFFICER CALLED ON DR. ZAMORA, SENIOR OFFICIAL IN INDUSTRIES DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY, AND DR. OMAR BARALT, PRESIDENT OF VENEZUELAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATON. OBJECTIVES OF MISSION WERE REVIEWED AND GENERAL OUTLOOK OF TEXTILE INDUSTRY DISCUSSED. DOCTOR ZAMORA AND OTHER VNEZUELAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ALSO ATTEND OUR RECEPTION.

4. DIRECTOR AND FRANK WARD OF AMATEX HAD RADIO INTERVIEW USEFUL IN PUBLISIZING MISSION.

5. LEESONA CORPORATION MADE IMMEDIATE SALE OF \$100,000 AND EXPECTS TO DO OVER ONE MILLION THIS YEAR. SACO LOWELL OFFERED CONTRACT FOR \$700,000 MACHINE BUT CANNOT DELIVER FOR TWO YEARS. SALE MAY GO TO CZECHS BY DEFAULT.

6. MEMBERS CONCERNED ABOUT NEW VENEZUELAN LAW ALLOWING USED TEXTILE MACHINERY TO BE SOLD. CUSTOMERS AND VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS CALLED ON WERE REMINDED OF THE DIFFICULTIES IN COMPETING IN THE ANDEAN MARKET WITH LESS EFFICIENT MACHINERY.

7. MISSION MEMBERS EXPERIENCED IN INTERNATIONAL SALES, THEY COMPLEMENT EACH OTHER AND WORK WELL TOGETHER. SEVERAL MEMBERS HAVE STATED THEY WOULD LIKE TO RETURN AS EARLY AS SEPTEMBER 1974 TO CARACAS TO CULMINATE SALES PROSPECTS DEVELOPED ON THIS VISIT. THE EMBASSY AGREED TO SUPPORT SUCH AN EFFORT IF ORGANIZED BY THE U.S. TEXTILE GROUP.

8. SOME MEMBERS SEE LITTLE USEFULNESS IN GOING TO RECIFE. DIRECTOR IMPRESSING ON THEM DESIRABILITY AND OBLIGATION TO MAKE THIS VISIT. ANY DROPOUTS WILL BE REPORTED TO RECIFE ON OUR ARRIVAL IN SAO PAULO.

9. DIRECTOR RECEIVED EXCELLENT SUPPORT FROM CONTROL OFFICER RICHARD GRAHAM, AND THE WHOLE EMBASSY STAFF. MISSION MEMBERS COMPLIMENTARY AND PLEASED BY ENTIRE EFFORT.
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